

5-9-05

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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Phoenix, Arizona
May 4, 2005

Applicant - Charles Q. Zhan **Group -** 2863
Serial No. - 10/717,406 **Examiner -** Le, Toan
Filed - 11/19/2003 **Atty Docket No. -** I20 06741 US
For - APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE DEFECT
INDICATORS FOR A VALVE

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITHIN MAILING DATE OF EITHER A FINAL ACTION OR
NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d))**

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Dear Sir:

In accordance with 35 C.F.R. §1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 35 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98 and 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Applicant hereby makes disclosure of the patents, publications and other information listed below and on the accompanying form PTO-1449, which references are considered to be potentially material to the patentability of the invention disclosed in the above-referenced application.

Further, each item of information contained in the attached PTO-1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the instant information disclosure statement.

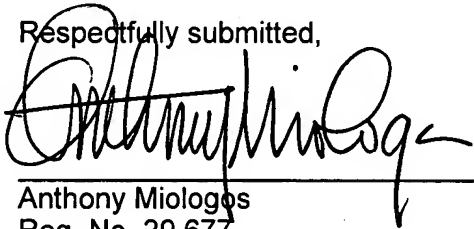
- The first enclosed reference is a copy of a paper entitled "A Simple Method for Detection of Stiction in Control Valves", by Alexander Horch, CONTROL ENGINEERING PRACTISE, Pergamon Press, Oxford, GB.
- The second enclosed reference is a copy of the International Search Report for PCT/US2004/03876, the copending International Application of US Serial No. 10/717,707, dated April 14, 2005.

None of the aforementioned documents appear to describe or suggest that which is recited by the claims of the present invention.



The references listed above and on the attached form PTO-1449 are cited for the consideration by the Patent and Trademark Office, but no representation is hereby made that the references are "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103. Moreover, the explanation above is not to be taken as a representation that the references have been thoroughly reviewed. In particular no representation is intended as to the relevance of any portion of a reference.

Respectfully submitted,

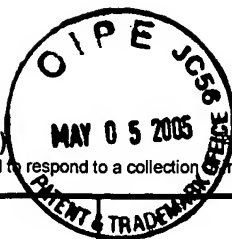
 5/5/2005

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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A-PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(USE AS MANY SHEETS AS NECESSARY)

Sheet 1 Of 2

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number	10/717,406
Filing Date	11/19/2003
First Named Inventor	Charles Q. Zhan
Group Art Unit	2863
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	I20 067141

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
		5,646,600	A	Abdel-Malek et al	07/08/1997	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
			None					✓

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

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(1) Unique citation designation number. (2) See attached kinds of U.S. patent documents. (3) Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). (4) For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. (5) Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. (6) Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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